

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • DECEMBER 1999



Monique Aguerre, art from Millennium Collectable Calendar Project see Page 17

New wave of deadly Ellis actions Year end rush to evict seniors

By Judy West

New legislation at the State level, which will limit some Ellis Act evictions, becomes effective January 1 and is spawning a rash of evictions in the final weeks before the new law takes effect. Worse yet, the targets are our most helpless citizens, the elderly and disabled.

The Ellis Act, for those unfamiliar as yet, is a 1986 state law which requires landlords to permanently withdraw a property from the residential rental business as a condition of evicting all the tenants at once. Only legitimate owners can occupy the units after an Ellis eviction, or the units have to be rented at their previous rates. This is a *drastic* measure used to overcome strict Rent Control laws in cities like San Francisco which otherwise provide very limited justifications for residential evictions.

After Proposition G was passed last November, prohibiting altogether the eviction of elderly and disabled tenants by owners claiming occupancy of the units for themselves (otherwise known as Owner Move-in Eviction: OMI), a sharp increase was reported by the SF Rent Board of the even more deadly Ellis Act evictions. Use of the Ellis Act is playing serious hardball by anyone's rules and it puts a whole new spin on the traditional rent control debates.

The new State laws passed in October 1999 were the result of an extended negotiation process between landlord and tenant representatives. More restrictive measures were originally forwarded by Senator John Burton, including a provision that people who have owned property for less than 5 years could not use the Ellis Act to evict tenants. The final law going into effect January 1 adds protections for some of our most vulnerable citizens, but was none the less, seen as a victory by landlord groups according to the Tenants Union.

Two major changes will provide additional protection from the Ellis Act for some tenants:

1) Elderly and disabled tenants with at least a year of residency in a unit will now be required to have a full year's notice prior to an Ellis Act eviction. Other tenants will have 60-120 days notice.

2) Local agencies are allowed to adopt legislation to regulate "further use" of properties that have used the Ellis Act, but only if they propose to change from "residential" to "commercial" use. This key provision was crucial to maintaining a set of existing laws in San Francisco which limit the conversion of residential hotels (a residential use) into tourist hotels (a commercial use), called the Residential Hotel Conversion Ordinance. But protections for the residential hotel tenants will only begin in January and any evictions filed before

Continued on Page 12



Bound for glory? Photo by Gary Stenger

(Rubber) Band of Brothers

The giant rubber band ball at the Pride Superette at 22nd and Guerrero continues to inch towards the Guinness Book of World Records as it approaches the half ton mark. One day last month the ball went for a roll through the Mission under the watchful eyes Samny and Nabil (Billy) Keishk, two local merchants who, along with friends and family are making that rubber band ball grow.

The stroll down to Valencia Street created only slightly less excitement than the walk by Willie Brown the month before. The brothers began the project on the suggestion of one of their customers, the echo-ish Raymond Raymond, as some-

thing to amuse local kids. Now they are determined to surpass the 1,476 pound monsterball in Delaware. If you've got a few rubber bands or a few thousand, why not drop by the store and help the cause.

Thousands of man hours and dollars have now gone into the effort, so the excursion into the streets was not without a certain amount of drama. At one point the monster ball started to come unwound but disaster was somehow averted. People like the Keishk brothers make this a great neighborhood. (The Mission does have one Guinness record holder already, see page 6)

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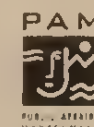
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Valencia bike lanes: a not so surprising success story

Traffic is calmer and the street is safer says DPT study

By Mary Brown

Every day as I ride down the Valencia Street bike lanes without getting harassed or nearly run over, I know the new bike lanes work. When I see kids using the bike lanes to ride to school and hundreds (more than double the amount!) of commuters riding home, I know they work. When I see the flag-toting guy in the wheelchair speeding down the bike lanes, and old ladies cruising along on even older bikes, I know they work.

I don't need to be convinced that the one-year trial bike lanes have greatly improved the quality of our neighborhood and should be made permanent fixtures once the trial is up in February. But it does help to have official numbers from the (not exactly alternative transit friendly group) Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) to back up what I and many bicyclists, neighbors and merchants and even some car drivers have come to believe.

If you look at the data gathered by the DPT, it's clear that the new street configuration (left hand turn pockets, one less traffic lane, and striped bike lanes) has far exceeded expectations. It is being held up as a model for street changes that actually work by balancing the needs of motorists, bicyclists, merchants, and neighbors.

Perhaps the most impressive result is the sharp decrease in reported traffic collisions during the first four months, as compared to the same time period the year before. Accidents decreased from 23 to 13, with injury related accidents down by

more than half, from 19 injuries to just 9. Reported injury accidents involving pedestrians went down to zero!

DPT traffic counters also found a 113% (!) increase in bicycling on Valencia Street after just four months of existence. During the evening rush hour, the number of bicyclists using Valencia has more than doubled from 88 to 188 bicyclists per hour! This number will only continue to grow as people feel safer cycling on city streets.

A DPT-sponsored hotline (targeting car commuters) for comments about the bike lanes found overwhelming support for the street changes. Of the 286 callers who commented, 91% were in favor, while only 9% opposed the bike lanes. Passions ran high on both sides, with favorable folks likening the bike lanes to "the best thing since sliced bread" and included support from motorists: "it's safer because we don't run over the bicyclists." One critic of the bike lanes cited bicyclists as the "major factor for abysmal traffic problems throughout the city."

The biggest complaint on Valencia Street is rampant double parking, particularly in the block between 16th and 17th. Although the penalty for double parking in a bike lane has doubled to \$100, many drivers continue to value personal convenience over public safety. There are only a few dozen streets in the entire city that have striped bike lanes, but some motorists have proved themselves incapable of sharing even this small amount of street space.

Early on, neighbors on the streets par-



allel to Valencia Street voiced concerns about an increase in traffic on their streets. Luckily, though there are fewer through traffic lanes on Valencia, there has only been an actual car traffic reduction of 11%. Therefore, none of the adjacent streets has seen an increase in traffic of more than 5%.

Overall, bike lanes continue to have the support of many merchants. "It's great!" says Servio Gomez, owner of Back to the Picture on Valencia and 20th. "The traffic has slowed down a little bit and it is less noisy. I see more people walking and biking."

Progress is also slowly being made to calm and reduce the amount of traffic

coming into the entire District, not just on Valencia. The speed limit on Guerrero Street has been lowered to 25 mph and a major campaign to curb the number of cars pouring onto Guerrero as a short cut to downtown has seen some recent success. The Save Our Streets Coalition is working to slow and reduce the traffic on San Jose Avenue, the biggest traffic funnel into the Mission, by lowering speeds, installing bike lanes, widening sidewalks, planting trees and ultimately, reducing the number of exits off the freeway.

Mary Brown is Director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, located at 1095 Market St. #215. Their offices can be reached at (415) 431-BIKE, or online at .

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General Election November 2, 1999 - Mission District Statistics		
Registered Voters	Turnout	Turnout Percentage
30039	12170	40.5%

How the Mission Voted November 2, 1999		
Proposition	Yes	No
A Laguna Honda Project	9327	1978
B Firefighter/Police Retirement Benefits	8516	2229
C Supervisory District Boundaries	8149	2231
D Sick Leave/Vacation Credit Transfers	9421	1697
E Municipal Transportation Agency	6298	4603
F ATM Fees	9191	2279
G Sunshine Ordinance Amendment	7465	2905
H Downtown Caltrain Station	8669	2242
I Octavia Blvd. Plan	7686	3096
J Central Freeway Replacement	3348	7404
K Campaign Expenditure Limit	9112	1648

Candidate For Mayor	Mission District Votes
Tom Ammiano	5855
Willie L. Brown, Jr.	3068
Clint Reilly	1316
Frank M. Jordan	853
Lucrecia Bermudez	223
Cesar Ascarrunz	135
Jim Reid	71
Mark O Hara	65
David J. Martz	59
Joel Ventresca	56
A.D. Wyatt Norton	42
Martin Lee Eng	39
Max Wood	25
William Felzer	17
J. R. Manuel	17

Candidate For District Attorney	Mission District Votes
Terence Hallinan	4733
Matt Gonzalez	2667
Bill Fazio	2009
Steve Castleman	1014
Mike Schaefer	273

How the Mission Voted

The Mission District lived up to its maverick reputation in the November general election by giving Tom Ammiano a clear majority for mayor with 5,855 votes. Willie Brown who in 1995 got 35% of the Mission vote lost ground in 1999 and eked out only 26% despite numerous campaign appearances in the neighborhood. Clearly voters in the Mission are unhappy with the current administration and downside of the community's accelerating gentrification that is displacing long-term residents and businesses and threatening the neighborhood's diversity and character. Brown may have finally gotten the message but probably not in time.

Clint Reilly, despite - or perhaps because of having his headquarters here - got the Mission's seal of disapproval. Frank Jordan, who compared the neighborhood to a bombed out Beirut that just needed more tourism, found 853 people

who could understand (maybe) what he was saying and agreed with it.

The tally for the lesser-known candidates didn't amount to much. Almost all of the alternative votes went to Ammiano. Many of these candidates put long hours and hard work into their campaigns but were swept away in the Ammiano tidal wave. When voters saw Ammiano actually had a chance, they directed their protest to where they thought it might have some punch. And so it did.

Terence Hallinan, who may or may not be the worst District Attorney in the state, did garner the largest number of votes to keep that job but it amounted to just 44%, a significant drop from the 59% he got in the Mission in 1995. Hallinan remains plagued by widespread discontent - in the Mission and citywide - with the bumbling way he's handled his job. He has drawn national press coverage and praise

for his educational and progressive approach to prostitution. Those living on or near Capp Street don't care about the political labeling of the efforts to deal with the prostitution; they just want fewer hookers on the streets. They got more hookers and Hallinan got fewer votes. His declining popularity is not a rejection of his political philosophy but a judgement on his competence. Newcomer Matt Gonzalez, who also ran as a progressive candidate came in a strong second while Bill Fazio, a more law and order prosecutor, finished third.

These groups need your help during the holiday season.

Quick picks from the Volunteer Center's annual Wish List, a resource for those who want to donate to those in need:

Family Living and Learning Services needs books, videos appropriate for family viewing and educational software for children. Contact Audrey Harlan at (415) 334-8613.

Hameless Children's Network needs new warm clothing, educational toys, uplifting books and, if possible, store gift certificates. Contact Vicky Huey at (415) 437-3990.

Immune Enhancement Project needs to brighten up their treatment rooms with mirrors, curtains, and Persian (or Persian-like) area rugs. Contact Daniel Navarro at (415) 252-8711.

Instituto Laboral de la Raza needs donations to the Community Thrift Store Giving Project to be made in the name of "Instituto 101." They will receive a donation when the items are sold. Contact Sarah Shaker at (415) 431-7522.

International Rescue Committee needs new or used furniture, kitchen appliances, and toys. Contact Denene Andolpho at (415) 437-3990.

The Mission vote on the propositions held no surprises in what, along with North Bernal Heights, has become San Francisco's most progressive community. ATM fees lost heavily by almost 7,000 votes. The closest contest was for approval of the new Transportation Agency, which was approved by a 1,700-vote margin. Everything passed but the proposed rebuilding of the Central Freeway, which here in bicycle land, lost by almost 4,000 votes.

Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center arts and media program needs (6) 35mm semi-automatic cameras, 8mm digital video equipment, software for web pages and graphic design, and, fairly new four-line phones in good working order. Contact Emily Drennen at (415) 703-6150.

Our Kids First needs lots of reading books and school supplies. Contact Maya Hart at (415) 585-1104.

Seniors Emergency Grocery Bag Program: with rents so high in this city, seniors have very little to spend on basic personal hygiene items. Donations of toothbrushes, tooth paste, and soap would be greatly appreciated. Contact John Meehan at (415) 558-9248.

St. John's Educational Thresholds Center needs computers, games, arts and crafts materials, and food. Contact Loreto Curti at (415) 864-3815.

Support for Families with Disabilities needs new toys and gifts for children, newborn to 18 years old, for their Christmas party in late December attended by 200-300 children. Contact Audrey de Chadencdes at (415) 282-7494.

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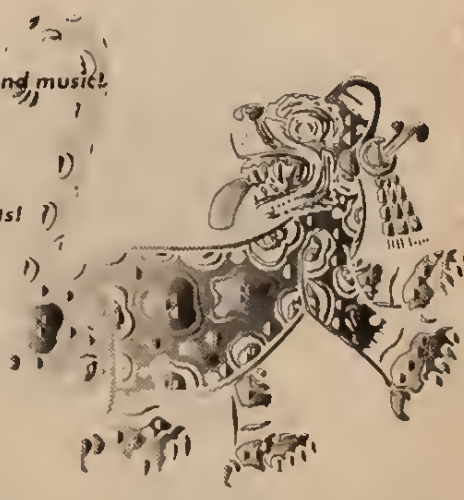
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Tom Ammiano for Mayor

I am supporting Tom Ammiano for many reasons, not the least of which is self-preservation

The cheesebox condo next door to the building where I live just sold for \$525,000. My neighbors on the other side and the ones across the street are fighting owner move-in evictions and the side street out back is occupied every evening by one or more homeless people sleeping on the sidewalk, except when there's a gang fight. In every direction I look I see a future that I don't care to be a part of. I feel boxed in.

A Real Alternative

For almost a year, voters in San Francisco felt the same way when they considered their choices for mayor. The three uninspired and uninspiring front runners presented a dismal prospect. Early on Willie Brown suggested democracy would be better served if he ran unopposed. The move from a one party democracy to a one-man democracy had a certain logic behind it: the logic of arrogance. When it got down to a contest between him, Frank Jordan and Clint Reilly, it looked like he might even be right.

These were not guys that were going to do any thinking outside the box. These were the guys who built the box. They liked it just fine; after all it was a cash box.

The handful of long-shot candidates, wacky as most of them were, did represent the opportunity for a protest vote but a viable alternative to what one was called "a tool of the rich, a fool of the rich and a son of a bitch" was nowhere to be seen.

When Tom Ammiano declined to be an official candidate, it looked as if San Francisco would continue on its rapid course to becoming a city of the very rich and the very poor with very little in between except resentment and distrust.

But the voters were pissed off. Ammiano's astounding second place showing as a write-in candidate was the first accurate measurement of tremendous widespread dissatisfaction with the excesses of the new urban prosperity. Thousands of people are at risk of losing their homes, the streets are in almost perpetual gridlock and the rising cost of living far exceeds the average person's potential earning power.

Economic Justice

For the last four years we have been told that public support for huge stadiums, giant tax breaks for department store chains, unrestricted development of luxury housing and catering to the every need of the multi-media industry were the solutions to all the city's problems. Willie Brown, the most elegant salesman the City's vested interests have ever employed, has been able to keep this fiction alive only for so long. The write-in phenomena shattered what was left of the illusion. The perils of the new prosperity were now a focus of the mayoral campaign. It was not a place where the incumbent cared to go, but for Tom Ammiano it was familiar territory.

Ammiano has championed the cause of economic justice through his support for living wage legislation, protections of elderly and disabled tenants from owner move-in evictions and ending tax and fee exemptions for the developers of upper income live/work units. Of course every time he has proposed something that would make the rich a little less rich and the poor a little less poor, he has been attacked as impractical or extreme. But this is a city that is home base for vast

sums of concentrated corporate wealth yet has a public sector that has been going down hill for years in terms of things like neighborhood parks, public transit, clean streets and schools.

It's only natural to suggest that maybe the fateats aren't paying their fair share, but when anybody does just that the plutocrats go ballistic and threaten to move to some nicer locality where their greed will be revered and indulged.

It would be nice to be able to say that after a depressing start the mayor's race is now between two men with different ideas about how to ameliorate the down side of the economic boom. But Brown has been oblivious to this issue for so long it is difficult to give credence to anything that he puts forward now in the heat-of the campaign.

Save the Mission

The Mission is ground zero for social upheaval. While we have watched the lofts and condos proliferate we have also seen more homeless people coming into our neighborhood and more young people involved in gangs. When is the rising tide going to float our boats?

We stand to lose the most and gain the least if Willie Brown is re-elected and the neighborhood continues to undergo both cultural and economic homogenization. Families, seniors, those on fixed income, the working poor, artists and small businesses are in danger of being forced out. Any contributions these people have made over a lifetime or over generations are disregarded. It's either pay up or get out. In some cases, such as Ellis Act evictions, it's just plain old get out. The choice for mayor is between Ammiano who recognizes the issue and has a passion for finding solutions, and Brown who either didn't see any of this coming or simply didn't care.

Leadership

Brown has tried to stress his superior experience and leadership ability. Ammiano is currently the president of the Board of Supervisors and has served as president of the School Board. That's something and its more leadership experience in San Francisco than Brown had when he ran for mayor four years ago. Ammiano is also seen as a man of decency and integrity, two factors that weigh heavy in being a leader. But how effective a leader can Brown be when a series of sleazy deals, cronyism, and federal investigations are always associated in the public mind with his administration? A perceived lack of honesty and integrity can undo even the most skillful chief executive. Richard Nixon found that out the hard way.

This is also an election about open government. On the one hand we have the incumbent representing the local chapter of the New World Order. He has demonstrated a fundamental and unshakeable belief in the panacea of deal making with monied interests as the optimal way to make public policy. It is a process in which the public, except by voting every four years and coughing up the always-welcome campaign contribution, is to be excluded.

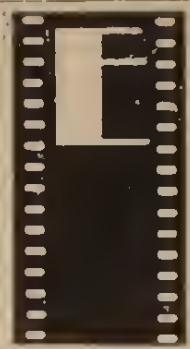
On the other hand, Ammiano either authored or campaigned for most of the Sunshine Legislation that is on the books. He has offended the powerbrokers and dealmakers just by running a successful campaign they couldn't control. He represents a healing dose of populism and the real involvement of ordinary people in altering the dangerous course San Francisco has taken.

Victor Miller Editor-in-Chief

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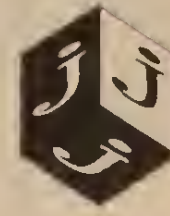
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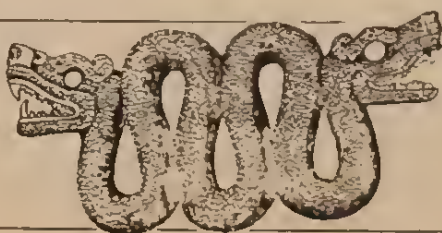
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Skating into the record book

by vmiller

On October 31, 1999 at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park, Sandy Snakenberg a professional skating instructor and a personal trainer at Valencia Muscle and Fitness entered the Guinness Book of Records by skating 316 miles in a 24-hour period. Snakenberg exceeded the previous record by 3 miles, astonishing friends and co-workers who along with officials from the US Skating Association and the Guinness Book of Records were among the few to witness this astonishing achievement.

The news media have so far ignored Snakenberg's accomplishment choosing to shower attention on those seasonal favorites the biggest pumpkin and fattest turkey. He is not bothered by the lack of recognition and is content with having reached what has been the goal of a lifetime.

For Snakenberg breaking the record was not a matter of a one or even a two-year grueling workout regime but a natural extension of a lifestyle that has been internal-combustion free "I've always

been self propelled," said Snakenberg, who is 38 years old and never owned a car. "Seventy percent of my training is being human powered," he added.

Sandy Snakenberg began his skating at precisely 1pm on October 30 1981 while in the US Navy. At that time he was a skateboarder sharing a large off base rooming house in San Diego with a group of skaters calling themselves the "Rad City Rollers". For a prank his roomies stole his board and gave him skates. It was destiny.

Over the years, Snakenberg has had more than a little experience in long distance skating, having, skated from San Diego to Phoenix in a mere two days and traversed the 550km length of Taiwan in five days. In 1992 he was the United States Ultra Marathon Champion and is the two time winner (1992 & 1994) of the California outdoor free style competition. And he's managed to incorporate his sport into a career. Twice a year he returns to Taiwan where he has taught skating to over 2,000 students, including ten members of the Taiwanese National Speed Skating Team. He has also worked as a dance and hockey instructor.



Superskater Sandy Snakenberg. Photo by Gary Stenger

Despite all this, the 24 hours at the Polo Fields proved to be a supreme challenge in endurance. Snakenberg said one surprise was the unanticipated amount of pain he had to overcome. He said the balls of his feet ached horribly causing him to stop more frequently than the 15 minutes every four hours he had originally planned on. He sustained himself on half a tuna sandwich and some chicken vegetable soup but mostly on liquid pre-digested meals called Spiz.

For two weeks afterwards he had no feeling in his left foot and months after the

ordeal he says he is still recovering. "Oh, I damaged myself. There's no way you do something like that and come out unscathed," Snakenberg said with a rueful grin.

Asked if he would be going for any more records Snakenberg said, "No, this is it. This is my greatest expression of human power."

It's an impressive one. Congratulations!

Sandy Snakenberg maintains a website at <http://homelink.net/~sk8around/sandy.html>

Get Your Can In Here For FREE Food!

Cafe Riggio, located at 4112 Geary Blvd., is giving a free plate of pasta, including fettuccine, tortellini or spaghetti (\$8.95 to \$9.50 value), to diners who bring in a two-and-a-half-pound, or larger, can of pasta in sauce for the Salvation Army. (Limit one meal per couple.)

The restaurant will have Salvation Army collection barrels in-house until the offer ends Dec. 24. Food collected will be used to feed the city's needy individuals, families and seniors.

Cafe Riggio is open Monday through Sunday evenings. For more information, call 221-4112.

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Until recently, San Francisco was distinguished among the world's cities by its provinciality. Its puerile left-wing politics, second-rate cultural institutions, and uniquely derivative arts scene all combined to make San Francisco a laughingstock to sophisticated people everywhere. Only its fortunate geography and consequent popularity as a tourist destination saved it from complete obscurity; and for many years Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 were arguably the City's most significant contributions to the national cultural landscape.

Left to its own devices, San Francisco would doubtless have remained a backwater. Its current status as a world-class city

is entirely due to its proximity to San Jose, Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, and the other intellectual powerhouses of Silicon Valley. Back in the mid 90's, while San Francisco's inhabitants were defacing their neighborhoods with mural "art," protesting the perceived foreign policy atrocity *du jour*, and reading the Alzheimer's-inspired ramblings of Herb Caen, a revolution was brewing in the southern suburbs that would change the city forever.

A new generation of e-visionaries dared to dream of an Internet free from Big Government. Instead of a subsidized talkshop for academics, computer geeks and conspiracy nuts, the Internet would be refashioned as a powerful network of e-

commerce solutions, offering an unparalleled wealth of quality brand-name products and services, and all the hassle-free convenience of home shopping. When this vision of a liberated, business-friendly Internet soon proved successful beyond their wildest expectations, Silicon Valley's digital trailblazers began to seek out new projects worthy of their entrepreneurial energy and cutting-edge creativity. And before long, their attention turned to the silly, sleepy little city to the North.

Of course, the ensuing migration of the *digerati* to San Francisco and to the Mission District in particular has been portrayed in the left-leaning media as something akin to cultural genocide; the extirpation of a lively community and its arts scene by arrogant, high-tech "yuppie colonists." Nothing could be further from the truth. The new digital elite are the missionaries of a hip new vision of urban life, striving with a zeal worthy of Junipero Serra himself to exorcise the demons of socialist superstition and bring the city into the new millennium. The over-used term "gentrification" simply does not do justice to the changes that are taking place in San Francisco: what we are witnessing is a cultural renaissance, thanks to which San Francisco is finally worthy of the

moniker "world-class city."

Nowhere is this renaissance more apparent than in the Mission District, where Silicon Valley's trendsetters are showing the world that even the rawest of neighborhoods can be transformed into a playground of the imagination. Amid the Mission's dilapidated factories and grubby commercial strips, a vibrant new urban lifestyle is expressing itself in exquisite restaurants, chic condominiums and architecturally stunning live-work lofts. The enemies of progress would have us believe that this is causing the Mission to lose its cultural diversity. The opposite is in fact the case, for what greater champions of cultural diversity than the Mission's new cyberpatricians, with their taste for French wines, German automobiles and international gourmet cuisine heralding a new San Franciscan cosmopolitanism that is the envy of London, Paris and New York?

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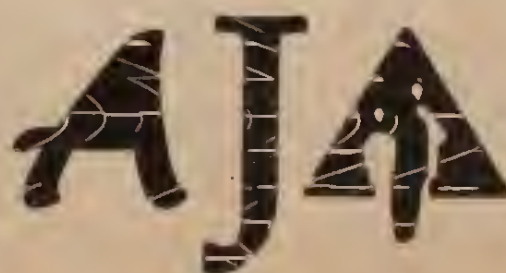
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MAYOR

The Mission's most notorious (Ex) resident claims he's being railroaded

Prosecutor remains certain convicted sexual predator Jack Bokin will spend the rest of his life behind bars

By Ed Walsh

Jack Bokin, the 56-year-old plumbing contractor convicted of a series of high profile attacks on three Mission District prostitutes and a former employee, says he's confident he'll get a new trial resulting in the most serious convictions against him being overturned. In a series of six jailhouse interviews, the man found guilty of savagely beating a Capp Street prostitute on the head with a hammer before tossing her into San Francisco Bay told the *New Mission News* he's a victim of dirty politics, an unethical prosecutor, and negative publicity.

Elliot Beckelman, prosecuting attorney and fellow Mission resident, calls Bokin a chronic liar and thief, and doesn't believe he has any chance for a new trial. Beckelman firmly believes Bokin will spend the rest of his life behind bars, remarking "his parole agent hasn't been born yet," and he says Bokin is a suspect in a number of other violent crimes.

Neatly groomed and wearing a red sweatshirt, signaling his status as an inmate connected with a high profile case, Bokin spoke from a jail interview room, calling himself a political scapegoat. "I was made the poster boy for all the evils of Capp Street," he said, adding "There's no doubt in my mind I'll get a new trial." Bokin faces multiple consecutive life sentences for his convictions on 26 felony counts, but is confident that he will be found not guilty in a second trial. He believes he has grounds for a new trial based on being denied a change of venue, being denied a sequestered jury, and not being allowed "severance," that is, being

forced to have all pending charges heard in one trial.

Although he has no proof, Bokin believes that some of the jurors disregarded the judge's instructions to not read or watch media reports on his case and were tainted by negative publicity. He feels he would have benefited from a change of venue because, he says, jurors outside San Francisco would not be as liberal or as pro-feminist, and he believes they would be more skeptical of testimony from prostitutes.

Bokin says the women who testified against him won't appear as credible during a second trial. "They were living well. Their rent was being paid," he said, referring to the California Witness Protection Program paying some of the expenses of prosecution witnesses. "The District Attorney had a real good rapport with



them and I think a year from now or a year and a half from now when we come back on appeal, they won't be in that nice of shape, they're going to be out there working the streets. They're going to be raggedy. Their stories are not going to be together and I think we're going to get a more accurate view of what their life is

really like."

But Bokin's greatest ire is directed toward San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan. "He's using my case as a spearhead," he said, "I am the *cause celebre* of Terence Hallinan in his reelection race. What is going against me in this case is that Hallinan set out an agenda when he was on the Board of Supervisors to support feminist's and prostitute's issues. It's a political hot potato. Why else would they spend a million dollars on three prostitutes and a heroin addict?" Bokin added that he believes alleged attacks on all women should be taken seriously but that his case has "taken on a life of its own."

Bokin's case was used as a rallying point for prostitute rights organizations and the widespread publicity associated with it focused attention on the problems associated with prostitution in the Mission. However, Hallinan firmly denies Bokin's contention that his prosecution was politically motivated, stating "This guy is going to spend the rest of his life behind bars where he deserves to be," adding "The prosecution of this case started over two years ago."

Bokin has admitted that he paid for sex with all three prostitutes he's accused of assaulting but denies attacking any of them. He also admits that he had a prior ongoing sexual relationship with a former employee, and that he pushed her out of his parked car during an argument after consensual sex. Bokin was found guilty of sexually assaulting his former employee and two of the prostitutes. The jury could not reach a verdict on the charges associated with the alleged attack on a third pros-

titute. The most serious charge and the most compelling evidence against Bokin involved the hammer attack on the woman being identified in court as Amber M.

Bokin says he paid Amber M. \$60 for oral sex one week before the incident occurred, after she approached him in the parking lot of Whiz In Burgers on 18th and South Van Ness. He thought that was the



end of it until police arrested him the following week, alleging that he kidnapped and sexually assaulted her for several hours, wrapped her in a plastic bag, beat her with a hammer, and tossed her into the water off Pier 7.

Amber M. was able to climb up to the Embarcadero and flag down a passing driver. She was treated at San Francisco General for two severe skull fractures.

On the day of the assault, October 4, 1997, Bokin says he was working at a construction project until the early evening before heading over to another construction site in the Castro District where he met up with his friend Wayne Walters. After leaving the second construction site, Bokin says the pair went to eat at a nearby restaurant. Bokin says he left the restau-

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rant around 8:30 or 9 pm, stopped for gas and at a grocery store before returning home at 10:15 pm.

Because Amber M. testified she was driven around for hours before being tossed in the Bay, Bokin claims that there's no way he could have done it in light of the alibi. But jurors didn't buy Bokin's alibi, apparently dismissing testimony from Walters who said he was with him until at least 8:30 pm that night. Beckelman says

Walters was one of five or six people Bokin approached to backup his alibi, and that he perjured himself.

Bokin calls the two other prostitutes



he's accused of assaulting "shakedown artists." He says he had to struggle with the prostitute identified as Martha F. to get her out of his house after she demanded more money for sex. Bokin says in the process, she attacked him with scissors. Bokin claims she another prostitute identified as Janie M. were persuaded by their pimps to go to the police to press charges against him. During a break in one of his pretrial hearings, Bokin says one of the pimps asked that they meet in a restaurant. Bokin refused but believed the man wanted to make a deal with him to trade a payoff for a promise that the women wouldn't testify against him.

As for the sexual assault of his former employee, Bokin accuses her of being a heroin addict and extortionist. In 1993, he alleges that she approached him for money saying "I am going to make it juicier than it ever was," implying that she would disclose to his family their past affair unless he paid her off. "She wanted \$350, then \$500," said Bokin. "She came to my house and my wife and kids were home."

Bokin says he agreed to give her \$350 and she agreed to have sex with him. He drove her to an isolated area near 17th and Mississippi where the two had sex in his car. Bokin says he tied her up with nylons but that it was part of their consensual sex play. While firmly denying any sexual assault, he conceded he might be guilty of simple assault for shoving her out of his car after the two got into an argument.

In at least one instance, Bokin claims the police planted evidence. "The police

are dirty," says Bokin who claims police planted microscopic epithelial cells on one of his shirts, cells that showed up in the second testing of his shirt. Bokin, who says that he has been forced to become somewhat of an expert on DNA evidence, explained that epithelial cells include non-blood bodily secretions such as mucus and tears. Bokin says he never wore the shirt around any of the prostitutes and questions how the cells turned up only after the second testing. Beckelman quickly dismissed Bokin's charge as lies, "What does he think, that we're carrying around gobs of her [Amber's] mucus, because that's what we would have had to do to plant evidence."

Bokin believes the police have a vendetta against him because they resent that he is able to live a somewhat "opulent" lifestyle despite prior convictions for theft. Although he concedes that he was involved with some thefts, Bokin says he earned a good income through hard work, skill, and his contacts in the contracting business. Beckelman said he could understand why police would want him off the streets, calling Bokin "one of the biggest thieves and fences in the Mission."

Bokin is also charging that Beckelman acted unethically by not disclosing to the judge that he lives just two blocks away from Bokin and that they know many of the same people. Beckelman says he disclosed this information to a judge over a year and a half ago.

Bokin acknowledges picking up 30-35 prostitutes, mostly in the Capp Street area of the Mission since 1993, and is sorry for hurting his wife and two teenage children. "I'm embarrassed that I resorted to using prostitutes," he somberly said. "I had a major error in my judgments. I feel to a great degree that I have violated a sacred trust I have with my family."

Bokin read from a prepared statement that he thought best summed up his perspective on his case: "This is a case about credibility and only credibility, about the recollection of prostitutes who perform numerous sex acts every day. It's about money, it's about theft, it's about deception, but more importantly, it's about an overzealous district attorney who needs a big conviction just before the election."

Beckelman puts Bokin in that category of individuals who "commit crimes and live a life of lying to justify what they do." He believes Bokin is the type of criminal who "gets off" on committing crime and added that Bokin's wife and children are also victims. "Whatever you write, I hope you will keep them out of this," said Beckelman. "They still have to live in the Mission. Keep this between he and I."

Bokin will be sentenced in December.

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Ellis evictions of seniors, disabled

Continued from page one

the residential hotel tenants will only begin in January and any evictions filed before December 31, 1999 are not subject to the new rules.

Raquel Fox of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic said that the extended notice requirements for seniors will deter the kind of speculators who were evicting tenants and flipping buildings within 3-6 months. Because the new legislation increases protections for seniors and the disabled, and maintains the Hotel Conversion Ordinance, the residential hotel properties are particular targets for Ellis evictions in the remaining weeks of 1999. These buildings have a large percentage of seniors and disabled tenants, who are typically paying the least rent anywhere in the City.

Ellis on the Increase

Prior to the passage of the Owner-Move-In related Prop. G in November 1998, San Francisco experienced an average of 34 Ellis evictions per year since 1986 according to Rent Board statistics. Ted Gulliksen of the SF Tenants Union reports that by December of 1998 they had jumped up to about 25 per month, increasing to 664 (to

date) in 1999 as opposed to 201 the year before. Three hotels were hit with Ellis this October after the latest State legislation was passed, affecting about 150 tenants and the numbers are rising as we go to press. OMI evictions have correspondingly dropped from 1,541 in 1998 to 920 in 1999. So far, 1,280 rental units have been permanently removed from the rental business with hundreds of units pending.

As property owners get more familiar with the Ellis Act it could well create a neutron bomb for low paying tenants the likes of which San Francisco has not seen in decades. Will providing one year's notice to selected tenants deter property owners from clearing their buildings and selling them only to people who agree to occupy it themselves? These are drastic measures for everyone involved but these are dramatic times. A local government can regulate how a property is used but as this most recent legislation illustrates, it will be very difficult to ever pass State laws to prevent an owner from occupying his or her property if they choose to abide by any use restrictions.

Short Sighted Solutions

Because our current system is built around protecting tenants only if they stay in their existing rental units (i.e. Rent Control), tenant advocates remain focused on keeping tenants as renters rather than helping them get out of the rent trap and into ownership. According to Ted Gulliksen, Supervisor Sue Bierman is now in the process of drafting legislation to limit basic shared ownership of property (Tenancy-In-Common) to a few hundred per year. These actions illustrate the quagmire that has developed around our existing local regulations. How can our leaders advocate that all the real estate and power should be in hands of a few wealthy landlords, and the general populous should remain at their mercy?

With Rent Control being gutted by the Ellis Act, this city needs a more comprehensive series of programs beyond the \$35,000 in grants given to developers to build new affordable housing that cannot keep up with the demand. Our most helpless citizens need better solutions than remaining in neglected apartments. For the average tenant the City needs some new home-ownership solutions.

Helping tenants buy the buildings where they live is an obvious first option. Low

interest, short-term loans for \$10,000 per unit would go a long way toward down payments for many marginal, would-be owners. Other incentives could be created for owners to sell to their existing tenants such as reduced transfer taxes and the like.

Rent Control Wake-up Call

The minor concessions secured in October against Ellis Act evictions should be a wake-up call to all tenants in this City. New and different approaches toward affordable housing are needed and quickly. A Rent Control showdown will be coming soon at the Board of Supervisors as a study sponsored by Amos Brown to review the effects of Rent Control over the past 20 years is undertaken.

The two men running for Mayor have very different tract records on this sensitive subject, which will undoubtedly be one of the most important issues of the next mayoral term. One thing for sure, neither candidate can produce policies that will make housing cheap and/or sufficiently plentiful in San Francisco any time soon. And neither can protect existing tenants from the Ellis Act or owner occupancy. We'd need a good 8.0 earthquake to make rent cheap again.

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Come On In!

On the outside: getting the Ellis Ax in the Mission

By Michael Page

When people would ask me "Do you still live in that great house on Shotwell Street?" I would always, say, "I'm going to live there forever." I guess I was hooked into being rooted, into having "my place," even if it does belong to someone else. Then the notice arrived; our landlord played the Ellis Act card. I must be out by December 27, four days before the law changes to provide some protections to renters. As the dawn of the millennium pisses out in a pathetic trickle, they want me to schlep out of my house with my head stooped and my tail between my legs.

As I face a new century, a new millennium, and new fears, I realize that I am not alone. More and more of my neighbors are facing the demon of gentrification, while the whole time putting up with the riffraff taking dumps on our front stairs and night callers leaving the cheap sex trade condoms for us to clean up. For years we felt protected by rent control, and I had thought that I would merrily grow old in the Mission District and see the trees and the dramas grow to fruition.

At the time of this writing, there are seven buildings for sale on my block. At the southern end of the block is Carmen Ramirez' Flower Park, where six months ago we gathered to fight her eviction. I never dreamed that my household, my neighbors, and the people down the block would be next. The more I talk about my eviction, the more I hear about many other folks also facing eviction, including some staff of this paper. We're all asking, "Where are we going to go?"

I didn't know that much about the

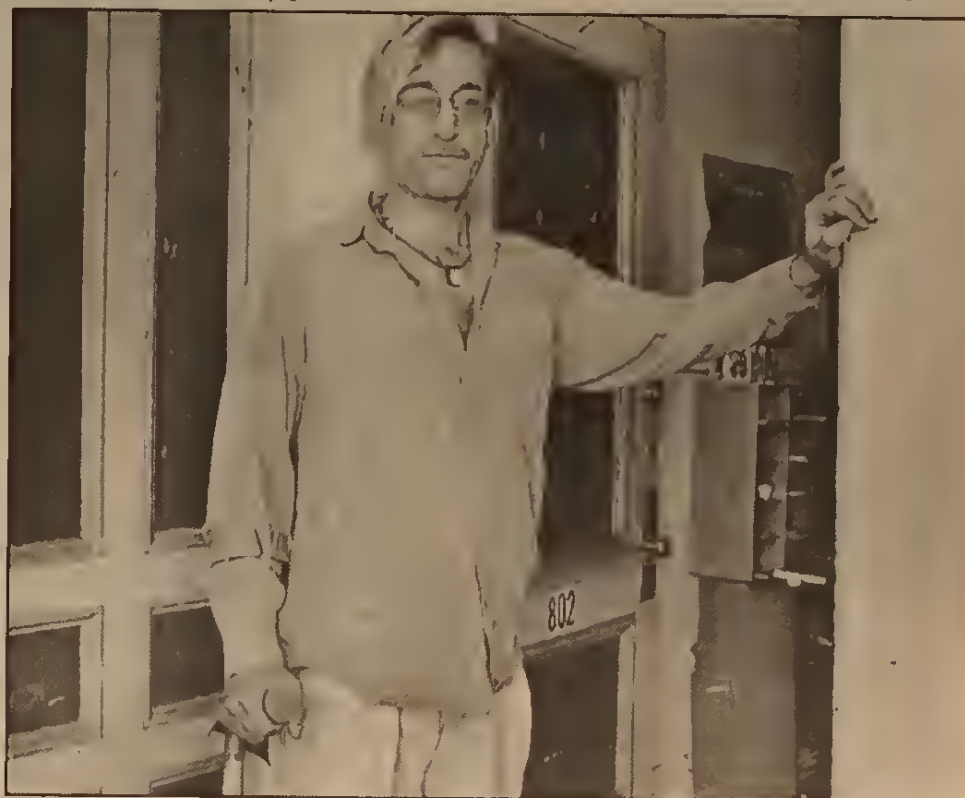
Ellis Act before we got our eviction notice. I found out very quickly that the Ellis Act lets a landlord file papers with the city to remove a property from the rental market permanently. I understand that it is a simple process that makes it easier for a landlord to remove existing tenants. With the Ellis Act landlords can take advantage of the hot real estate market, grabbing for the big bucks flowing into our neighborhood with the current migration.

Holiday Cheer

My roommate and I are both disabled. In an owner move-in situation we could not be evicted under any circumstances. Currently the Ellis Act has no such restrictions that apply to disabled or elderly tenants, however in the year 2000 a one-year waiting period that would allow us time to make other living arrangements will be written into the law. By handing out eviction notices during the 1999 holiday season, landlords won't be obliged to honor that detail.

These legal changes combined with a real estate market that lets a landlord ask \$550,000 for a piece of property in an area where a few years ago a lot of folks were afraid to venture, has left us on the outside. You can bet that I won't leave here, two days after Christmas without a fight. I envision a collective voice and show of faces joining together and gathering power if not to stop them, then at least to slow them down.

We have considered many tactics, including finding some public institution or benefactor to buy the buildings and continue to rent it to us. Although this is a possible venture, it requires more time than many of us have. Our household approached our landlord and asked to be



Michael Page in front of his home of 17 years. Photo by Gary Stenger

considered as potential buyers but we were turned down. I called HUD to find out if there were any preservation funds for our neighborhood that might allow us to maintain our building with the present tenants. They said they would get back to me. I called Tenderloin Housing and they told me horror stories about entire apartment buildings being Ellis Acted, and dozens of poor and disabled residents facing eviction. St. Peter's Housing was responsive. They are trying to get a lawyer who isn't presently overwhelmed with other cases. The Tenants Union had a lot of information, but it was grim in relation to the Ellis Act. All the agencies I spoke with expressed interest in our situation but made it clear that we have reached a crisis, with all kinds of serious emergencies going on.

Fight Back!

We have decided to launch a grassroots campaign to fight the gentrification of the Mission and the widespread evictions that go with it. Along with PODER, People Organized to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights, we are asking for support in preserving the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods.

Last October I saw just how widespread the problem is when I attended The March of the Evicted. People from all over the City showed up. I told my story and heard person after person tell theirs; single mothers, native San Franciscans; whole populations in the Tenderloin and Western Addition forced to move on - and all of us with nowhere to go. There were tears, curses and threats, and I asked myself "what next, what next?" I went home (Ahhh, I love that word) and wept over my

eviction notice. Then I realized that there are a lot of us, and we had better make plans now!

If San Francisco can make history by writing in a queer mayoral candidate with an extremely low budget and short grassroots campaign, then we can surely design and implement legislation to protect the rights of low-income and long-term residents of our city. Willie Brown isn't going to do it; his interests lie elsewhere. Community affordable housing needs to be a priority. Who in my community is willing to take a stand? There should be an uproar over these unjust evictions. It doesn't take money to protest, rally and march, boycott, or picket landlords and realtors. Let's show these folks who we are! Join us in protesting these slumlords and speculators. For any leads on housing call Michael Page at 648-6865. Email: Lazarus21@tti-national.net

A partial list of Community Organizations that can help if fighting eviction:

PODER 431-4210
SF Rent Board 252-4600
SF Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation 982-1300
SF Tenant's Union 282-6622
St. Peter's Housing Committee 487-9203
La Raza Centro Legal 575-3500
Tenderloin Housing Clinic 771-9850
AIDS Legal Referral Panel 487-8033

Editor's note: this is the first in a series of first person accounts of the wave of Mission District evictions. If you have a story of your own contact New Mission News. Phone 695-8702 Ex 695-2838, e-mail vmiller@sirius.com

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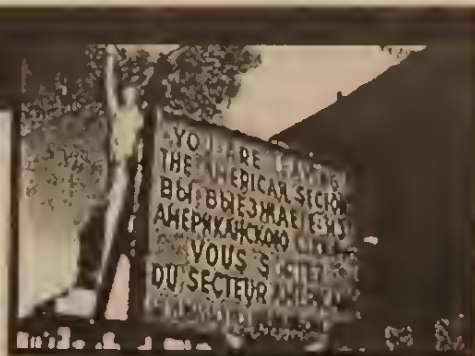
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DECEMBER

Mission District Calendar

Composed by Liso Gonzalez
Design by Novorrete-Alazán

4

SATURDAY

What to do for Chapped Apocalypse – Other Cinema's collection of world ending scenarios includes: Orson Wells on UFO's, a Sub Genius clip on a Texas missile cult and the Heaven's Gate recruiting tape. More lun than a barrel of Armageddon. Artists Television Access 992 Valencia, 8:30pm, \$5. Call 824-3890.

Fin de siècle feedbag and wordfest – *The Last Words of the Century* combines the poetry of Cordelia and jó (the poet formerly known as Alfonsito), music by the Jethro Jeremiah Band and DJ RANFACE plus a fine buffet of Sengalese food. Keur-Baobab 3388 19th Street @ Mission, 10pm, \$15. Call 566-3440.

5

SUNDAY

Cool tunes – An Afternoon of Winter Music includes everything to warm you from Chinese folk music to Mozart. Performed by students, faculty and baroque specialists at the Community Music Center. 544 Capp Street, 4pm, free. Call 647-6015.

Rhymes with Tom – Mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano and a host of poets including Leslie Simon, Jack Hirshman, Alejandro Murgia, Jenny Lin, Kush, and Diamond Dave will try to make Willie Brown's re-election chances worse with verse. New College Cultural Center 766 Valencia, 7pm. Call D. Dave 864-3842.

6

MONDAY

A Baldwinner – Politically feverish and often correct diatribes against whatever they've got continue to eddy and whirlpool through the sci-fi plots and found footage landscapes of Craig Baldwin's films; *Spectres of the Spectrum* is no exception. For a truly unique vision of the world as it shouldn't be. Plays through 12/9. Roxie Cinema 3117 16th Street, at 6, 8 & 10pm (\$7) Wednesday 2pm (\$4) & 4pm. Call 863-1087.

7

TUESDAY

Raúl Thomas lays it on us – This esteemed Word Man extraordinaire (see his photo nearby!) launches a new "Vallejo Tuesdays" Poetry Reading Sene in the place off 22nd that always seems like it's closed but really isn't, a way of life for the merry folks at 1109 Valencia, Cafe Multicultural Valencia, 9pm. Info: 824-7659.

See dee City – *Shaping San Francisco*, an ambitious CD-ROM project headed up by C-Mass meister Chns Carlsson, is now in its 2nd edition. The new jazzed up version includes 2,000 photographs and 100 audio and video clips pertaining to history both overt and covert of our fair city. Carlsson will demonstrate all the latest bells and whistles on this pioneering work of electronic proactivism. This is one instance where the book was not better. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia street, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

The Grand Alliance – It's always quality (of life) time at the monthly meetings of the Northwest Bernal Alliance. All neighborhood issues all the time. Coleridge Park Homes meeting room 190 Coleridge, 7pm sharp. Call 282-2489.

8

WEDNESDAY

Squids for Kids – The Flying Calamari Brothers perform a free clown and stunt show for children at the Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett @ 24th, 4:30pm. Call 695-5090 for more information.

Just say si to sexo – Screening of hot, hot, hot Latino erotic films. Galeria de la Raza 2857 24th St. @ Bryant, 8pm. Call 826-8009.

MOM's Hospital – Grand opening celebration for Saint Luke's Millennium Occupational Medicine program, offering a full range of occupational medical services 24 hour 7 day a week with a multi-lingual staff. 1580 Valenia Street, 4-6pm, free. Call 641-6406.



9

THURSDAY

Material (Punk) Girl – Ayn Imperato reads from her book *Dirty Money and Other Stories*, which chronicles the trials and tribulations of a punk rock gal in search of gainful employment. Warning: presentation includes mud, porno, Hell, Goths and other elements of modern life that might not be suitable for all potential readers. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.



Readin, Writin and Revoltin – Poetry/prose reading by rad fems Merle Woo and Nellie Wong followed by an open mike or michele in this case. Sign up for open mic from 6:30 to 7:30; festive dinner at 6:30 (\$6.50); event at 7:30 (\$3) New Valencia Hall 1908 Mission Street. Call 864-1278.

10

THURSDAY

Maybe you'll get lucky – The closing party for BOMBA! (Latino Erotica) will include food, drink, and fun. (BYOSex) It remains a mystery why the nude woman with the Virgin Mary on her butt has not created more of a stir than it has. Galeria de la Raza 2857 24th Street, 7-9pm, free. Call 826-8009.



Maybe you'll get unlucky – After you've had plenty of sexo (or not) at the above event walk up to Balazo Gallery for Maldito Suerte, a night of installations, interactive performance, film, audio and 2D art by the all female group Las Otras. The show is inspired by the children's game Loteria. The gallery is having its own run of hard luck in the form of a pending eviction. So, let's support them. Balazo Gallery 2811 Mission (2nd floor), 8pm – 12am. Call 920-0896.

11

SATURDAY

The laughing Tomato Man – Poet Francisco Alarcón will read from his works including *The Laughing Tomato* and *Other Spring Poems* and conduct a poetry workshop for kids. Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett @ 24th, free, 11am to 1pm. Call 695-5090.

Don't get out much? – 10th Annual Sparks Fly. Celebrate the release (finally) of Puerto Rican political prisoners, Laura Whitethorn and honor women political prisoners in general with Chrystos, Aya de Leon, Sayyadina, music, poetry, videos and more. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission, 7:30pm, email outoftime@igc.org.

12

SUNDAY

Oh yeah, Amahl shook up! – The Community Music Center's annual holiday party for children includes a performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by the Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble followed by a visit from Santa Claus. Community Music Center 544 Capp Street, 11:30am, free. Call 647-6015.



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13

MONDAY

Tru Tales - Robert Coffman reads Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*. Coffman has also done interpretive readings of Capote's *Answered Prayers*, *Music for Chameleons* and *A Thanksgiving Visitor*. Theater Rhinoceros 2926 16th Street, 7pm, \$10. Call 861-5079.

14

TUESDAY

The Empire strikes us - Gary Bechin reads from his new history of the city *Imperial San Francisco*. Bechin demonstrates an ongoing despoilation of the environment and stratification of the social order that began with the early mining magnates such as George Hearst, who passed his greed and ruthlessness on to his offspring William Randolph Hearst. A bonanza of plutocrat scandal and robber baron atrocity. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia Street, 7:30pm, free. Call 283-9246.

15

WEDNESDAY

A safsual preference evening - Free same sex salsa classes start at 6:30pm followed by a five Flamenco show by the Yaelisa & Caminos Company (\$8) and then at 10pm safsa tunes from the Dulce Mambo Band (\$5). El Rio 3158 Mission Street. Call 643-3486.

16

THURSDAY

Bear witness to the behemoth! - Tour the site of the massive 43-acre UCSF Mission Bay campus! See the mind-boggling plans for the transformation of 303 acres of the surrounding area! Gasp at the awesome Catellus Mission Bay Visitors' Center. Make your reservations at least a week in advance or you'll be TOO LATE! Call 476-4394 NOW!!

17

FRIDAY

Don we now our gay apparel - A *Judy Garland Christmas*, features Judy's daughter Loma Luft reminiscing, film critic Jan Wahl analyzing, Connie Champagne, as Judy, singing, Mathew Martin reading ('Twas the Night before Christmas as Kate Hepburn) and Suzy Berger as Judge Judy. The evening concludes with a screening of *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Castro Theater 489 Castro 7pm, \$15-20. For ticket information 863-0611.

18

SATURDAY

Anarchist Brew - The Anarchist Cafe is back once again with an evening of poetry, including Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, agitprop by members of the Mission Artists Gentrification Insurrection Coalition and music from Folk This! Harmonic Intervention and Rebecca Riots. This is a benefit for Free Radical Infoshop. 225 Potrero @ 16th, 6pm dinner 7pm politically laden amusements, \$1-5. For more information call Chris Crass 647-5819.

A league of their own - The League of Revolutionaries for a New America present their vision for the new millennium with speechifying, poetry and music. No mention of snacks. New College Cultural Center 766 Valencia, 7:30pm, \$3-5. Call 252-6401.



21

TUESDAY

Last holiday party of the year - Kids always enjoy these events at the Mission Library. This one has refreshments and a craft-making workshop for making Christmas gifts. Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett Street @ 24th, 4pm, free. Call 695-5060.

22

WEDNESDAY

Progress. Smogress - Hungarian director Ildiko Enyedi's film *My Twentieth Century* examines the concept of progress in the last 100 years as seen through the eyes of two twin sisters, one a radical the other a seductress, who were separated at birth. Artists Television Access 992 Valencia, 9pm, \$5. Call 824-3890.

23

FRIDAY

Strung out? - This is for all of you walking around with the shakes because you've got a bad hill billy jones and the roommates said anymore banjo playing was grounds for your permanent removal. It's a bluegrass jam open to all string band players. Atlas Cafe 3049 20th, 7:30pm, free. Call 648-1047.

25

SATURDAY

Throat music - If you really must go out on Christmas Day, check the inspiring and surprise smash hit documentary *Genghis Blues*, the story of Paul Peña a blind San Francisco blues singer who journeys to Tuva to take part in the Tuvan throat singing competition. If you've never heard Tuvan throat singing, you're in for a boggle. A different sort of *Wonderful Life*. Roxie Cinema 3117 16th Street, Daily at 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10pm through December 30th. Better see it over and over again because the rest of the week is really quiet. As a matter of fact the ancient Mayans referred to this end of the year period as the Uayeb, a time of bad luck. They pretty much packed it in, staying at home for carefree sex until Columbus introduced syphilis - thinking about next year's corn crop and trying to keep their kids from driving them nuts.

31

FRIDAY

Beethoven's greatest hit - Enter the new millennium in a rousing mood. Urs Leonhardt and the Community Music Center Orchestra perform Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with full choral.



Also on the program *Symponia Mezica* by Carlos Pazos and Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Calvary Presbyterian Church, Fillmore @ Jackson, 9:30pm, \$20 general, \$10 youth, students and seniors. Call 392-4400 for tickets. If you survive into the new era, the performance will be repeated Saturday January 1 at 8pm. Both shows are going to sell out fast.

on...

ONGOING

Call It What You - Billed as an evening of dance, drool and desire and performed with big dance elan by Shona Curley and Erika Shuch, The Beauty School. Bring your own drool cup. Dancers' Group Studio Theater 3321 22nd Street. 12/3-5 & 12/10-12, 8pm, \$12-15. Call 824-5044.

World beaters - Sister Hermes Dance Machine does the millennium bit in *Blue 2000*, a look at a world moving too fast and an ode to the state of the world heart, what there is of it, with lots of laser, film clips and slides to keep it lively. ODC Performance Gallery 3153 17th Street, 8pm, 12/2-4 & 12/9-11, \$15. Call 863-9834.

The unparodiabie parodized - Inspired by sitting through a bad solo performance piece (are there other flavors?) *What I Want*, written and performed by David Mills, satirizes the world of ego driven and talent challenged single person productions. But can the ridiculous be ridiculed? Intersection for the Arts 446 Valencia, 8pm, Thursdays-Sundays 12/2-12, \$9-14. Call 626-3311.



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Hispanic Art 2000

The San Francisco Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art (El Museo Hispano de Arte Contemporaneo de San Francisco) presents an exhibit of four artists during December and January whose careers mark a special era in Hispanic art. Arte Hispano 2000 will feature the work of Ben Dominguez, Mario Joel, Luis Bacerra, and Ricardo Rivera. These painters all have special ties to the Mission and their work and achievements over the past decades have received special recognition in the local galleries, cultural centers, as well as

in international festivals.

Representing distinct styles, these artists have transformed themselves through the experience of their personal expression with a consistency and integrity of spirit that has inspired generations on an international level.

For more information, call El Museo Hispano de Arte Contemporaneo de San Francisco at (415) 841-2024. Opening reception for the artists is December 17, 6:30-9:30. Live music performed by Sangano. (see below)

Anti-gentrification Mural

In November Galeria de la Raza hosted a reception for a Digital Mural currently displayed on the Gallery's Bryant Street Billboard. The mural is the creation of students attending the School of the Arts (SOTA) during the 1999 session. As part of the Service Learning in the Arts program, Advisor John Leaños, credits students artists Zach Segal and Jonah Copi for successfully visualizing an interpretive history of the Mission District from colonization to gentrification.

Leaños believes that a cultures history is "spoken through the walls of their cities," and the Digital Mural provides a sense of historical time and place that communicates to the viewer while in the same respect, allows them to place themselves within the context that history.

The mural was generated electronically using some of the newest computer programs available, and was spawned by the lack of current documentation regarding recent history in the Mission. When students began their initial research for the project they discovered little or no materi-

al relating specifically to the issues that they felt truly concretized the Mission's historical experience. The project then became a search for history of the Mission at the end of the 20th century, and much of the research was based on oral history.

Recognizing history as a cyclical phenomenon, Leaños says that where we are at now is in a paradigm of resistance, and he describes the work as a mural of resistance. Of course, Leaños admits that the project is too big to communicate all the necessary information in one mural, but Copi has done an excellent job of choosing images that mark significant stages of resistance, from Ohlone to live-work loft times. The Mural will be on display through January and also comes with a graphic historical chronology briefly explaining each cycle of change, which can be viewed in the gallery and gift shop.

Galeria de la Raza Billboard is located at 2857 24th St., on the Bryant Street side. Gallery hours: Thursday - Saturday from 12:00-6pm. Call (415) 826-8009.

The homeless need help this holiday season

Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS) is asking for your support, in making the holidays a little more bearable for our community's working poor. "We are always in need of volunteers and donations of food and personal items, but never so much as during the winter months," says Amilcar Mayen, Dolores Housing Program (DHP) Director.

DHP is the only emergency food and shelter program serving men in the Mission District and the largest such provider to San Francisco's Latino Community. 120 men each night, many of

them working poor, are provided with a safe, dignified, and culturally appropriate environment, food, case management, a medical clinic, English as a second language classes and other services. "The need is growing and we are continually asked to do more with fewer resources," says Mayen. These items are especially needed: towels, Christmas decorations, and: deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, handkerchiefs, socks, shaving cream, and hand lotion.

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housing, sanctuary, and support for the people seeking dignity, health and hope in San Francisco's Mission and Castro neighborhoods. The organization's programs include the Richard M. Cohen Residence, a licensed facility providing 24 hour supportive housing to people living with AIDS who were previously homeless; the

Dolores Housing Program. San Francisco's largest provider of emergency food and housing services to the homeless Latinos and working poor, and a much used community center at 938 Valencia Street. For more information please call 282-6209.

Y2K Compliant Millennium Calendars

Galeria de la Raza is currently exhibiting Y2K Artist Commemorative Calendars through December 12. Twenty-seven artists representing all generations, genres, and end of the cycle perspectives have come together for this display of some of the best calendar art ever imagined.

Curated by Rene Yañez, artists include: Eugenio Castro, Charlotte Cote, Gabriel Navar, Scott Fulton, Antonio Tovar, Rene Yañez, Jonah Copi, Nick Gomez, Pamela Shields, Monique Aguerre, Daniel Galvez, Rodney Ewing, Rudy Cuellar, Micha Messenheimer, Liz Lerma, Jose Montoya, Deborah Iyall, Jesus "Chucho" Angel Perez, John Leañes, Victor Mario Zaballa, Rene "Chango" Garcia, Louie the Foot, Joe Sances, Erika

Zarco, Ricardo Favela, Honorio Robeldo, and Alyson Belchar. The Millennium Collectable Calendar Project is a collaboration of Galeria de la Raza, Berkeley Arts Center, and La Peña Cultural Center.

The calendars are one piece, approximately 18 by 23 inches, with a complete year 2000 twelve-month calendar. These unique time keepers feature original drawings, watercolors, photography, collage and many different kinds of prints, signed by the artist, and most are one of a kind. Each calendar sells for only \$25, and there are going fast!

Galeria de la Raza is located at 2857 24th St. @ Bryant. Gallery hours: Thursday - Saturday from 12:00-6pm. Call (415) 826-8009.

Sangano Release Party

This Saturday, December 11, Sangano hosts a release party for their latest CD title, *Bluesday*, at the Border Cantina, 1192 Folsom Street. With lead vocalist David Padilla, Alfonso Morales and Gabriel Sandino on guitar, backup vocalist Steve Pitzenbarger on bass, and Enrique Padilla on percussion, Sangano carries on the tra-

dition of good, home grown music from the Mission. Is there something in the water, or what? If you haven't heard this group yet, I'd say; drop by the Border Cantina and check them out. Copies of *Bluesday* will be on sale for \$6, and Sangano will fire up the live music at 10pm.

Books to Branches Donor Program

The San Francisco Public Library has a new program called Books to Branches that offers book-lovers an exciting opportunity to be personally involved in contributing to the collection at their favorite library branch. In return for a tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more, the library will purchase a book (or books) for the branch of your choice. Donations can also be made with a bookplate feature, which lets the donor acknowledge anyone they choose with a personalized bookplate displayed on the inside cover of a newly purchased book.

Forget about ten seconds of fame, this will last at least a lifetime! The bookplate feature can be a memorial to a deceased loved one, honor a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion. What a great holiday gift! In addition, if desired, the library will notify the honoree of the purchase in their name through an acknowledgment letter from the City Librarian.

Donations can be made in cash or by personal check. Donor forms will be available from library staff at the Main Library and at all 26 branch libraries.

Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

Quick picks from the Volunteer Center's annual Volunteer Opportunity Guide.

On Lok Senior Health Services needs Santa's Helpers and Craft makers, Carolers, and food servers for a special Christmas meal. Contact Kim Longenecker at (415) 550-2214 or Steve Share at (415) 292-8738.

Youth Industry; Nu 2 U needs individuals with retail experience to demonstrate and model independence and goals while working with youth in their thrift store. Contact Melissa Lambert at (415) 206-9945.

Center for Young Women's Development needs volunteers for their Holiday of Hope celebration. It's a party, and you're invited! Contact Jessica Nolan at (415) 977-1980.

Jon Sims Center for Performing Arts needs performers and Nutcracker Suite music for all to dance along for their annual event to raise funds for our community arts organizations December 5 and 6. Contact Lauren Hewitt at (415) 554-0402.

Support for Families with Disabilities needs helpers with kids to wrap and distribute gifts for a Family Holiday Ice Skating Party at Yerba Buena Ice Rink. Guaranteed fun whether you can skate or

not! Contact Audrey de Chadenes at (415) 282-7494.

Our Kids First needs volunteers to work as part of a group to prepare students to participate in a Kwanzaa celebration. Contact Maya Hart at (415) 585-1104.

AIDS Emergency Fund needs volunteers to decorate, set up, prepare and serve food, or clean up after their Christmas Eve Dinner. This is an afternoon event for people with AIDS and their families. Contact Clark Sealy at (415) 558-6985.

International Rescue Committee needs Santa Substitutes and help delivering donated gifts to newly arrived refugees from Kosovo, Bosnia and Liberia. Must have your own sleigh. IRC also has Adopt-a-Family opportunities. Contact Denene Andolpho at (415) 437-3990.

These are just a sampling of the donor and volunteer opportunities available in San Francisco during the 1999 holiday season. Copies of SF Holiday Wish List and SF Holiday Volunteer Opportunities are available by calling the Volunteer Center of San Francisco at (415) 982-8999, or visit their website: www.vcsf.org

The Volunteer Center of San Francisco assists individuals to both serve their communities and attain personal and professional growth through community involvement.

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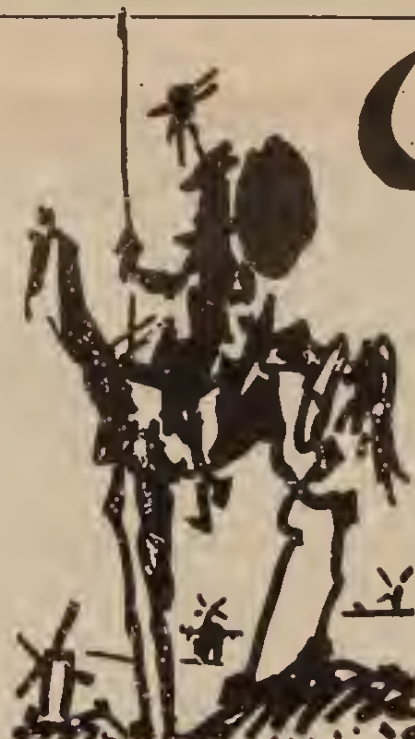
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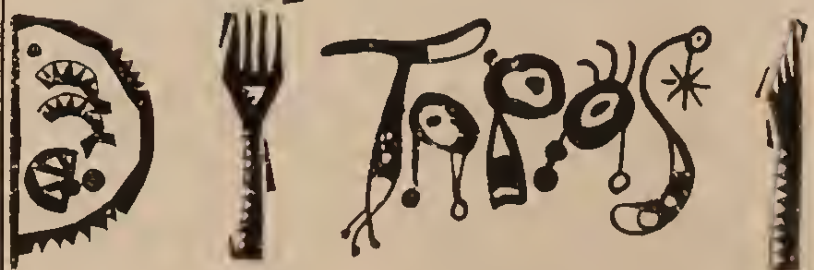
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J. S. Mala in the Mission



Life and Dreams of the Perla River Valley *Vida y Sueños de la Cañada Perla*

Bay Area Muralists Recreate Destroyed Zapatista Mural

By Jime Salcedo-Malo

On April 11, 1998, the Mayan village of Taniperla, Chiapas, a Zapatista stronghold, was invaded and occupied by the Mexican military in an attempt to neutralize growing community support for the rebel army. Much of the village, including a community mural, was destroyed. Twelve international human rights workers were arrested and deported. In a recent display of solidarity with the people of Chiapas, Bay Area artists and community members, including three of the international workers who were deported, recreated the destroyed mural on the walls of North Beach's City Lights Bookstore.

The mural, titled *Vida y Sueños de la Cañada Perla* (Life and Dreams of the Perla River Valley) commemorates everyday life and the continuing struggle of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) that in the early morning hours of the New Year, 1994, the EZLN rose up in arms and into world consciousness.

Originally designed and initiated in

Chiapas by Mexico City artist Sergio Valdez Rubalcaba, the mural represents the indigenous struggle against more than 500 years of oppression. When the military invaded Taniperla, Valdez Rubalcaba was arrested on charges of "rebellion" and sentenced to nine years in prison. After a year and a half-long campaign by supporters and human rights activists, he was finally released. He continues to educate Mexican society on the Zapatista struggle.

After searching the City for a mural site, Bay Area artist Jeff Conant visited City Lights Bookstore, which was in the process of retrofitting the building. Conant saw potential in an exterior wall and City Lights was supportive of the project. Jeff put out a call to artists, and the Zapatista Mural Project was formed. It is one part of a successful movement to recreate the mural in cities throughout the world. Besides San Francisco, the mural has been reproduced in Barcelona, Madrid, and Bilbao, Spain, as well as in Italy, Mexico City, and Oakland.

"The mural was created in the true spirit of community and mutual support," says Conant, "all the work was done by



Life and Dreams of Perla Canyon Mural

individuals volunteering their time and skills."

During the November 14 dedication ceremony, Mission District artist Calixto Robles, noted the accomplishment; "This mural has a lot of power because it allows people here to know a little of what is going on in Chiapas." Robles added that by communicating a message of resistance, the mural "helps the indigenous struggle against the repressive forces of the government."

More than 100 people in attended the

dedication, including San Francisco filmmaker Pepe Urquijo. Having recently traveled to Chiapas, Urquijo witnessed the conflict first hand. "The mural is another reflection of what the Zapatistas are about" he says, "they haven't just relied upon the community inside of Mexico, they have outreached to supporters throughout the world." Without this support the people of Chiapas would have long since been destroyed.

Vida y Sueño de la Cañada Perla is located on the Jack Kerouac Alley side of City Lights Bookstore, 261 Columbus Avenue



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Letters to the Editor

Fading Mural Needs Remix

Editor,

With Carlos Santana's latest album going double platinum, I wonder if some of the proceeds could go to restoring the fading mural at South Van Ness Avenue and 22nd Street that features the guitarist, front and center? Or perhaps a special concert could be organized for just this cause or for saving San Francisco murals in general?

Brian Wallace

Library Hour Reduction

Editor,

Seven San Francisco Public Library branches will each lose one Saturday hour per week starting in January if the Library Commission votes to approve proposed new hours at its December 7 meeting. Nine hours of cuts, combined with 7 hours added, results in a two-hour net loss of adult hours systemwide.

The Library Administration incorrectly totalled these cuts as a seven-hour increase, and Library literature misleadingly describes the plan: "Minor modifications and seven additional hours per week are proposed."

Reducing hours is no way to repay the

citizens of San Francisco, the Supervisors, and the Mayor, who have been generous with this Library. They have increased the Library's budget to over \$44 million this year, more than double pre-Proposition E levels and some \$12 million greater than it was five years ago when Prop. E first took effect. Yet the book budget is down to about \$4 million from a high of \$5 million and hours, which have not changed in five years, are now slated for cuts.

Proposition E requires a reassessment of library hours every five years. In public hearings, including at the Mission Branch, library users were told that there would be no cuts in hours at any branch. The Library's own Prop. E surveys and hearings this fall showed that many citizens want more hours, weekend and evening hours most of all. Yet the majority of the cuts are on Saturdays. It should be noted that three hours have been added to four Children's Rooms, all on Wednesdays from 10-1, including at the Mission branch; but Children still get fewer hours than adults systemwide, and none of these added hours are on evenings or weekends. At Mission, Monday adult hours end at 9 pm, the Children's at 6 pm; Tuesdays and Wednesdays the Children's Room continues to close at 8 pm while the branch remains open until 9 pm.

Our now-generously-funded library should expand evening and weekend hours to better serve everyone, including working people, students, and others who cannot come on weekdays.

The citizens of San Francisco have spoken clearly to the Library Administration and it has not heeded them. The message needs to be delivered again to fellow citizens, the Supervisors and Mayor, and to the Library Commission, 100 Larkin St., both before and during its scheduled meeting, Tuesday, December 7,

5:30 pm, Main Library, Civic Center, Koret Auditorium.

The Library once again can use some help from its friends.

Sincerely, James Chaffee

Freeway vote

Editor,

This past election San Franciscans upheld last year's decision to replace the earthquake-damaged section of the Central Freeway with a four-block long Boulevard. Proposition I, which reaffirmed the Boulevard won by a 54%-46% margin. Proposition J, which would have repealed the Boulevard plan lost by 53%-47%.

Hopefully this vote will put to rest a painful ten-year saga that began with the Loma Prieta earthquake and included three very divisive ballot initiatives. City officials now have a clear mandate. It's time for them to move the project forward and for those on both sides of the issue to come together to insure we build a beautiful Boulevard that will serve the needs of all San Franciscans.

As co-chair of the Committee to Build the Boulevard, I would like to personally express my appreciation to all the New Mission News readers who supported us. You are part of a broad coalition of organi-

zations, neighborhood groups and individuals from throughout the City who all contributed to the success of the Build the Boulevard campaign. I, other members of the campaign committee and future San Franciscans thank you.

Sincerely, Robin F. Levitt

Slackerspeak

Editor,

Being one of the "bohemian, workshy, slackers" Silicon Satan makes reference to in your article concerning Burning Man, I would like to respond. An extremely articulate and eloquently written article, I found myself agreeing with you on all points. However it is not praise I wish to deplore yet rather answers.

It seems critique and cynicism are making their effulgence ever brighter these days and if I may opine, have become blinding. Blinded from the possibility of an answer, a solution, an alternative. Now please understand that I'm not against critique, however I find it can tend to exacerbate a situation when overly used. All I know is that I'm 23 years old, bordering on the edge of the apathetic abyss, and still have many years left on this earth. "Peace" does not have to be a cliché.

Goin easy, Mike Howe, Tenderloin

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Walzwerk serves up fine German cuisine and good times

New edition to the Mission's culinary explosion is lots of fun

by vmiller

We do not have too many restaurants in the neighborhood; in fact we don't have enough restaurants that are fun. For those of us who have made prudent evolution in self-indulgence from recreational drugs to recreational eating, the current proliferation in local eateries that are ostentatious, loud, and cater to multi-media gourmands, is irritating in the extreme. Recently some friends asked Cathy and I to introduce them to the yuppie dining experience. We selected a nouveau knucklehead spot that shall remain nameless. The evening began poorly when our waitperson insisted on giving us the history of the butter before serving the rolls. He would have gone all the way back to the name of the obliging cow, had not Cathy whose Bronx heritage is somewhat enhanced when her blood sugar drops, loudly interjected "Just give me the damn bread!" The service thereafter was icily terse. Our friends howled at the prices, grumbled at the size of the portions, and were disappointed with the quality of the food. We'd given them precisely what they'd asked for and they weren't even grateful enough to pick up

the check.

If it weren't for wonderful cozy places like Puerto Alegre, Kcur Baobab and Cafe Valencia, to name just a few, I wouldn't have any digestive oriented diversion at all. Fortunately, Walzwerk, the new East German restaurant on South Van Ness fits into that genre of fun places to eat. Nobody's going to burden you with the geneology of your fork, your vehicle will not be valet parked and it is democratically owner-operated. It's located amid the remains of auto row on South Van Ness, so the name Walzwerk which means steel works is appropriate (sort of), as is the Socialist (sur)realist posters of dedicated prols that adorn the walls. It's a shame Walzwerk is no longer open for lunch, there's real blue collar rush that comes from sitting down to a meal of meat and potatoes while watching the action at the retread tire center across the street.

Owners Isabell Mysyk and Christiane Schmidt are charmingly hospitable. When not too busy they like to sit at the tables with regulars and chat but the place is hopping most nights. With only six tables in the front room and a few more in back, it's all very warm and homey.



Chef Nichele Cavaleri and Walzwerk proprietor Isabell Mysyk.
Photo by Margaret Yamasaki

Having lived on German fare in my early childhood I was delighted with the palatal memories the grilled Thüringer Bratwurst with mashed potatoes and sauerkraut (\$9) brought to my taste buds. The sauerkraut was golden brown with a mellow taste not at all like the abrasive sourness of the awful mass-produced stuff found at ballparks and hot dog stands. This was the real thing.

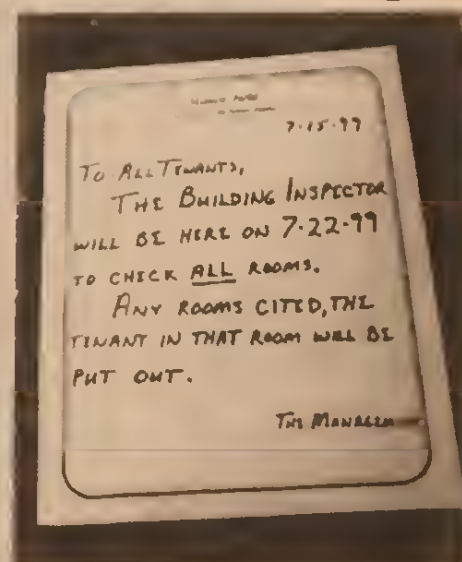
The Walzwerk menu includes both meat and vegetarian dishes but my focus was the meat. On my first visit and my very satisfying Bratwurst trip down main-

ory lane, I noticed a sausage and sauerkraut variety platter on the menu for two for \$25 - I had to have it. In choosing the second person I gave considerable thought to the eating habits of my friends. I decided on Judy because I was sure she couldn't put away more than eight bucks worth of sausage. If you're a lover of smoked sausage this is your dish: delicious, moist and floating on a huge bed of sauerkraut. Judy, as per plan, acquiesced to my consumption of most of the platter which did not leave me feeling uncomfortably overfed, just content that I'd finally gotten my fill of really good sausage. (This dish has sadly disappeared from the Walzwerk menu but Isabell said it will be back.) For dessert we tried the Cold Dog, alternating layers, of crisp vanilla cookie and rich chocolate (\$3.50) and a generous slice of apple tart with vanilla ice cream (\$4). Walzwerk's selection of non-meat items includes vegetarian "Wiener Schnitzel" (\$11) and potato dumplings with mushroom ragout (\$9.50). The rotating menu of daily specials always includes something surprising, such as salmon, but not necessarily German, giving Walzwerk a more varied cuisine than other German restaurants in City. As if you probably guessed already, Walzwerk has an excellent selection of beers and wines.

Walzwerk has everything we recreational eaters are looking for. It's a laid back, down to earth establishment with its own unique style serving up good food, and plenty of it, at reasonable prices.

Walzwerk is located at 381 south Van Ness @ 15th, open for dinner 5:30 - 10pm, Wed - Sat. Call 551-7181.

Complaint Dept.



Before the Mission Hotel was taken over by the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, the former management had a curious policy regarding tenants who made complaints about roaches, raw sewage or lack of heat in their rooms. If the inspectors found the accusations to be valid, they were evicted. Presumably, those who made false or frivolous charges were welcome to stay.

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Hardworking Mission District Student Gets SMART Boost

By Denize Springer

Ask Carlota Amaya about her plans for the future and she'll tell you, "school comes first." The Mission District seventh-grader and scholarship recipient at Epiphany School is serious about getting a good education. She recently got an extra boost from the SMART Program (Schools Mentoring and Resource Team), one of 30 mentoring programs offered by the San Francisco Mentoring Coalition.

SMART provides Amaya with her tuition and uniforms for Epiphany School. Like all students chosen for SMART she is from a low-income family, and is required to attend summer school and meet with a volunteer tutor a few hours each week. Amaya's SMART Program tutor, Elizabeth Cooper, helps her maintain her motivation and offers support whenever she faces new academic challenges and unfamiliar settings, such as her recent transfer from the public school system to the private Epiphany.

Amaya is such a good student that her parents, who emigrated to the US from El Salvador in the early 80's, do not worry about her getting her homework done. But Cooper provides Amaya with opportunities to explore activities outside of school and home when her parents are working. They see movies and go bowling together. The two recently spent some time in the Marin Headlands trying out Cooper's new camera. Amaya's goal is a career in architecture, and according to Cooper, "She has a good eye. She took some great photographs."

Mentoring Works

The San Francisco Mentoring Coalition (SFMCC), a program of the Volunteer Center of San Francisco, matches more than 1500 youths with carefully screened adults each year. Emphasis and interests shared by mentors and students range from sports to the arts, outdoor activities, and social events.

A recent survey conducted by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America indicated that youths with mentors typically avoid many of the common pitfalls of growing up. Twenty seven percent of mentored youths were less likely to start drinking. Forty six percent were less likely to start using drugs. Fifty two percent were less likely to skip school. In addition, more than half of these youths improved their grades and 90% went on to college or planned to do so within a year.

SFMC urgently needs adults to serve as role models for nearly 400 youths, many from the Mission district. Persons of color and men are particularly needed as mentors. Adults from all walks of life, most of who have full-time jobs, volunteer one to three hours a week building one-on-one relationships with their students.

Most volunteer mentors will tell you that they get as much out of this unique experience as the students. Cooper, who is a full-time director of a San Francisco antique gallery, finds her weekly meetings with Amaya, rejuvenating. "It's not an exorbitant amount of time we spend together," she says, "just a couple of hours each week. Tutoring is not about quantity, but quality."



Carlota Amaya with her mentor Elizabeth Cooper.

Last year, Supervisor Gavin Newsom, who has participated in a mentoring program, passed a proclamation aimed at finding a mentor for every San Francisco youth who needs one by the year 2000. The heat is on to reach this goal.

To participate, call the San Francisco Mentoring Coalition at (415) 982-8999.

ext. 233 or visit the SFMC website at www.sfmentor.org. For mentoring opportunities outside of the Bay Area, call 1-888-55-YOUTH. Parents who are interested in SMART or other free programs that will enhance their children's education are encouraged to call SMART at (415) 885-1333.

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Library Lady



I need to know what day of the week Christmas fell on in 1519. I'm not sure if this would mean using the Gregorian or the Julian Calendar. I'm writing a book about the encounter in Mexico between the indigenous peoples and the newly arrived Spanish - I want it to be accurate!

Lisa

Lisa, Library Lady is intrigued by your question! I recommend starting with a good almanac, which are chock full of general interest information about calendars and calendar dates.

LL Step #1: The World Almanac is a useful and wonderful friend! First, let's find out about the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Looking under the subject heading "calendars," we find definitions for both types of calendars. Both calendars, according to the *World Almanac*, are based on the movements of the sun and the moon. How these movements are interpreted makes the different calendars unique. It looks like the Julian Calendar would govern the year 1519.

From 46 BC to 1582 AD (see LL Note) most nations in Europe used the Julian Calendar, which the Emperor Julius Cesar instituted based on the recommendation of his Greek advisor, Sosigenes. Sosigenes supported the belief that a year was 365 days long. By the mid-sixteenth century, however, western scholars and scientists generally accepted the idea that this calculation was 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long. So, the world was getting ahead of the sun and the moon, and the calendar needed to be adjusted.

In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII decreed that October 4 would be followed by October 15, to correct for the cumulative error in time keeping resulting from the

use of the Julian Calendar. When the revised Gregorian Calendar was adopted in Europe, New Years Day was moved from March 25 to January 1.

Spain and many other European countries adopted the Gregorian Calendar at this time and stuck to it over the next three centuries, much of the rest of the world followed.

Checking under "calendars" we are directed to use the "Perpetual Calendar #7" for the year 1519. The Perpetual calendar shows that Christmas Day, which of course we have the date for, December 25, fell on a Sunday in 1519!

LL Note: A scholar at the Fire Arts Museums advises us that AD, "After Death," meaning after the death of Jesus Christ, has been replaced with CE, meaning "Common Era," and that BCE, "Before Common Era" has replaced BC, "Before Christ."

LL Tip: For the answer to this question, Library Lady got great tips on solving this mystery from the people at TIPS, the library's call-in reference question phone service (reached through the Main Library's general number: (415) 557-4400).

Kids programs at the Mission Branch Library:

Wednesday, December 8, 4:30 pm,
The Flying Calomari Brothers (Clown & stunt show).

Saturday, December 11, 1 pm,
Francisco Alarcon reading and talking about his life.

Tuesday, December 21, 4 pm,
Holiday Party with refreshments and a craft for all ages!



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MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



Joining the Mission Merchants Board of Directors for the year 2000 is Beverly Reed, an associate real estate broker with Coldwell Banker. She has 26 years experience in the real estate business. Reed is not entirely happy with the current red-hot real estate market, which she sees as overpriced. "What's happening now is real scary. People are paying outrageous prices. These young people in their 20's and 30's don't understand that this waterfall of money is not forever." Reed expects the boom to continue until at least the year 2001. "These things are cyclical but all the babyboomers settling down and buying homes and all the young people who have all the money will keep this one going for a while."

Reed who lives on 19th Street is a big Mission fan. "I love this neighborhood. It's just so cool here." Her daughter Kaelin is a student at San Diego State University.

The Mission Merchants, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Mission Chinese Business Improvement Association urge you to attend:

Mission Magic

An event to benefit holiday toy drives in the Mission
Monday, December 6 at Foreign Cinema 2534 Mission Street
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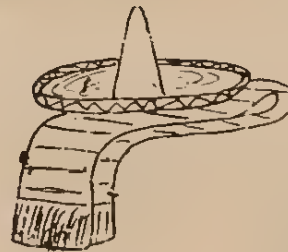
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Recycling in San Francisco: A few environmentally correct gift ideas

By Debby Dunn

Dear Debby, I'm trying to avoid the wasteful gift-giving urge. Can you suggest some quality green gift ideas?

Sounds like you're fighting early symptoms of *affluenza*. According to *Sierra* magazine, *affluenza* is the addiction to material possessions that spawns an endless cycle of spending, overwork, waste, and debt. Here's some cures:

Give gift certificates, then they can get exactly what they want. Give a trip, a night on the town, or a homemade dinner.

Give a membership to an organization, or a donation to a person's favorite charity.

Give a battery recharger, it saves money and resources.

Give a water filter, a compost bin, or a plant.

Give a wet cleaning gift certificate, it's the environmentally friendly way to dry clean clothes. Two local wet cleaners are California Oak Cleaners, located at 4721 Gcary Blvd. (415) 386-6766, and Union French Cleaners located at 1718 Union Street (415) 923-1212.

Give Nothing at all (just a card or a hug).

Give cash, one size fits all!

For more great green ideas, order one of the SF Recycling Program's Green Holiday Guides by calling (415) 554-3400, and check out these great websites:

Xtra Gift Tips

Get rid of those "never used holiday gifts" from years past with a White Elephant Gift Exchange between your friends, family, or coworkers. Hopefully, you'll get something better in exchange for that year-old fruitcake. Donate unwanted gifts to thrift stores; call 554-RECYcle for a list.

Waste Not, Want Not

Dear Debby, What can my family or my office do with leftover food from holiday parties?

Besides sharing them with your family, coworkers, and pets, you can donate them. Food Runners will take prepared and perishable food. Call them in advance at (415) 929-1866 to set up a pick up time or to find a location to drop them off. The San Francisco Food Bank will take perishable fresh produce, bread, and packaged food. They only pick up large quantities of food, but they do have two drop-off sites, for more details call (415) 282-1900. Left over holiday decorations and gifts are also gladly accepted.

Sale Points

Dear Debby, I have diabetes and want to know what to do with my used needles?

First of all, please DO NOT throw needles in your garbage or recycling containers! They pose a serious health threat to the people collecting these materials. FREE Needle Disposal Containers are available at all Walgreens Pharmacies, as well as all SF District Health Centers, and UC Medical Center at Parnassus Heights. Biohazard containers are available at SF General Hospital, SF VA Medical Center Pharmacy, and SF Kaiser Foundation Health Plan for current patients. Return full containers to the same locations above for proper disposal. For more information, call (415) 657-4007.

Waste Prevention Tip of the Month

Send your old greeting cards to Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square PA 19073. PRC volunteers remove the cover page and send them to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The covers are recycled into new cards and sold to raise funds for the internationally renowned research and treatment center. Also, most local nursery schools and kindergarten classes are happy to receive your old cards for arts and crafts projects.

If you have questions or article ideas that you would like to see in coming issues, please call (415) 554-3400 or email sfrecycle@ci.sf.co.us. Hoppy, healthy waste-free holidays! Debby Dunn is the Public Outreach Coordinator for the San Francisco Recycling Program.

It's alive!!!



WavyGravy reacts to something, his photo perhaps in *Open City*. Photo by A.D. Winans

By vmiller

Yes, once again the legendary *Open City*, San Francisco's first "underground" publication has resurfaced in a new format with the same gleeful irreverence and revolutionary zeitgeist. John Bryan, publisher, editor and prolific writer has captained *Open City* through various incarnations in the last 35 years and has collected a wealth of material from sixties icons such as Robert Crumb, Charles Bukowski and Timothy Leary.

Bukowski himself viciously but hilariously satirized Bryan in an early short story called *Open Pussy*. Bukowski is long since dead to the world but alive in *Open City* archives and therefore still, along with more than a few other nonextant writers, a contributor to the current issue. On the other hand, Bryan was living it up at last month's publication party at Abandoned Planet Books, drinking cheap wine and serving up mystery meat tacos, proving once again that he who lasts, laughs.

This is issue #259 of *Open City*; there's been quite a spell since #258. Bryan, over the decades, has come out with various *Open City* style ventures that have had lively but abbreviated runs. In between issues Bryan goes back to reporting for the monopoly capital media barons. He saves, schemes and bides his time until the hour is right for a new version of OC to roll off the press. He remains boundlessly optimistic. "This time, this is it," he says with that plausible mad man glint in his eye.

While OC259 has some non-Sixties articles, such as Bryan's long "Was JFK Jr. murdered?" (is there anything more timeless than a dead Kennedy?), and an excerpt

from the writings of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the magazine's editorial thrust is: bring back the Sixties. I gathered this from managing editor Alan Cohen's paean to the Summer of Love and the fact that "Bring Back the Sixties!" appears at the top of top of each page. While I agree in part, I don't think giving the Manson Family another chance, restaging the Detroit riots or another dose of the draft will make my life any better.

At one point during the publication celebration, Bryan announced he had spent all his money on the booze and eats for the festivities. To prove it he whipped out a battered old wallet that contained just \$2 (coincidentally the cost of a copy of *Open City*). Now that's some Sixties worth recycling: reckless spontaneity, heedless generosity, virtues of Christmas long past. Good stuff still. Bring these back, leave the rest.

Open City is available at Modern Times and Abandoned Planet Books.

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Health Matters



Richard Pitt

What should we be feeding our pets?

Sandra Estrada owns the Happy Pet store on Taraval and she has some opinions about what we should be feeding our pets. Estrada used to sell the usual commercial variety pet foods in her store, but that was before her dog became diabetic. Through her investigation into her dog's illness, she read a book titled *A Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats* written by a homeopathic vet named Dr. Pitcairn. The book had a devastating affect on her and led her to re-evaluate her business. After researching the pet food industry and the quality of food being produced, she decided to open the Happy Pet Store.

Estrada's research revealed that most commercial pet food was actually doing harm to pets. Run of the mill pet foods are highly processed and cooked at very high temperatures, which destroys enzymes. Pet foods that lack nutritional value need further supplementation, which adds to the costs of feeding pets. Even the amount of protein listed doesn't tell us how much protein is actually being digested. A lot of it is coming out in the stool of the pets. Also, food contains far more grains than meat. The amount of chicken may be a lot less once all the moisture is taken out.

Even if you didn't mind spending extra, Estrada says that most of what we

read on the labels is useless. She says it's better to have chicken meal listed than just chicken because the chicken content is higher. When food says its "chicken" or "beef," there is no guarantee that it only contains these meats. There is also other meat that comes from dead animals, including dogs and cats. This one factor alone must make us question the effect the food will have on the health of pets. Some pet food is advertised as being "human grade meat." This is better, but it is still cooked at high temperatures, which kills enzymes and therefore needs supplementation.

The incidence of diseases such as cancer, arthritis, diabetes, kidney failure, skin problems are increasing in pets. More and more, domesticated animals are getting the same diseases as humans are. Why is this? Perhaps we should be looking more closely at the food we are giving our animals.

One long-standing myth regarding pet diet is that animals should be given the same food each day. In fact, a variety of foods in the diet are good; it ensures that they get the vitamins, protein, and enzymes necessary for good health.

Dry pet foods are marketed as being a "complete diet" for pets. However, there are well known complications with kidney

failure in animals that subsequently don't drink enough liquids. If this dry pet food is used, it should be used to complement other foods. Estrada suggests feeding pets raw meat because it contains much more enzymes and vitamins than food that is cooked at high temperatures. However, do not feed animals cooked bones because they are dried out can break up into splinters. The risk of E.coli and salmonella is minimal in pets as they have very strong digestive juices and a short intestinal tract.

Estrada's research revealed that all the advertising suggesting a particular food for older or younger pets is meaningless. She also learned that beet pulp is added to many pet food products, with companies claiming it to be a source of fiber. In fact, it works as an artificial stool hardener, which can mask whether your pet has diarrhea. It also slows your pets' digestion and that is not good, so products that include

beet pulp should not be used.

The Pet Food industry is huge and, as with the commercial food industry for humans, there are many questions we should be asking about the quality of the products they are producing. Just because it's pet food doesn't mean we should put profit above health.

Sandra Estrada recommends two books that will help you keep your pet happy; *A Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats* by Dr. Pitcairn, and *Food Pets Die For* by Ann Martin. The Happy Pet store is located at 709 Taraval, San Francisco (415) 566-2952.

Richard Pitt, Director of the Pacific Academy of Homeopathy and Health Educator, can be contacted at (415) 695-8200.

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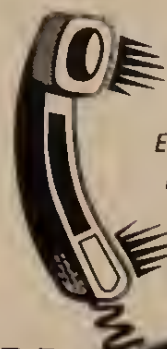


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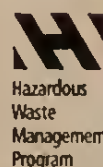


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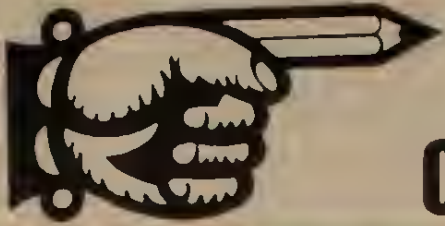
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Poems of the Month

edited by La Huerfana

Visperas

Hoy esta noche
al ocase del sol
me acostare con la mente confusa
el corazon atormentado
y la alegría de mi ser en agonía

Hoy esta noche 23 de diciembre
sufro la cercanía del día navideno
albricias para el niño del mundo
¿Por que no?
Que llegue a sus oídos
el mensaje de paz
el juguete anhelado
y a su vientre un pan

Ciervos divinos
nalen pronto el trineo
del Santa que regala
vayan prestos
al continente negro
Asia, la America Central
el Caribe, Sur America
La India
y a todos los rincónes del mundo
donde los niños lloran
sus eternas probrezas
Donde el hambre persiste
aun en navidad.

Carlos Claver Castillo © 1999

Before Christmas

Today, this evening
as the sun sets
I'll go to bed with confused mind
tormented heart
and innermost joy in agony

Today, this night, December 23rd
I ache for the coming of Christmas
gifts for the children of the world
Why not?
Let them hear
a message of peace
have a longed for toy
and bread in their belly

Divine reindeer
quickly tow
Santa's sleigh
bearing presents
to Africa
Asia, Central America
The Caribbean, South America
India
And all the comers of the world
where children are crying
in everlasting poverty
Where hunger remains
even on Christmas

Carlos Claver Castillo © 1999

Airport Haiku

Fat people eat noodles
Skinny people drink tequila
Waiting for a plane

Hotel Haiku

The sound of water running out of a
faucet
The noise of a creaking laundry cart
All one flower

Apartment Haiku

The screech of birds in the hallway
The squeal of children in the play-
ground
Same sound

Train Station Haiku

Two old japanese ladies in turned up
mustard colored
Sailor caps
Pretty little flowers sitting in the sun

Ronnie Burk © 1999

Valencia St.

1.
white woman in a sari
are you a student of yoga,
an escapee from some ashram,
why do you dress that way
on a Saturday night?

2.
where did you, and how &
when & why
did you love me
fading, ill-lit
ghost in the rain

3.
the street is a bardo
an open door to a window
waving at dead friends
going by

4.
F. Scott Fitzgerald turns the corner of
Valencia & 17th
In a cream colored rolls royce
& I'm not sure of the time & place
crossing the street in a city
I no longer recognize

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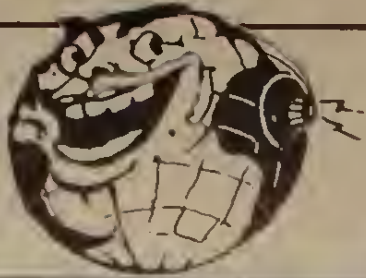
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Round World Music Review



Robert Leaver

This past year was remarkable for the continued success of the Cuban recording *Buena Vista Social Club*, the promotional documentary film about them, and releases by affiliated artists. In fact, Ruben Gonzalez, Ibrahim Ferrer, and their "Buena Vista" colleagues played a show at the Paramount Theater in Oakland sold out crowd. The concert sold out in 30 minutes and tickets were changing hands for hundreds of dollars outside the venue. The classic styles of Cuban *son* that they play are now a familiar part of our American musical landscape. Cuba rediscovered!

Ferrer's musical release is pleasant with some sweet tunes but ultimately not a "classic" record. Guitarist/Singer Eliades Ochoa and Cuarteto Patria's *Sublime Illusion* features well played versions of some classic tunes given a gentle treatment; but the recordings they did with Manu Dibango, *Rumba Makossa*, and blues harpist Charlie Musselwhite are ultimately more interesting. Perhaps the best of the Buena Vista slew of releases is that by ninety five year old guitarist/singer Compay Segundo; *Calle Salud*, which was produced in France and has wonderful arrangements featuring the clarinet and women vocalists who carry the tunes.

This past year saw the emergence of the Latino superstar in the marketplace. Ricky Martin, with his Middle America good looks, hit it big time with his frat-rock like *Living La Vida Loca*. Also, Marc

Anthony released his first English recordings on *I Want to Know*. He at least maintains a salsa musical form in his crossover music. The question is does this really mean anything for Latinos. The fact that they can have success speaking, or singing in English in America does not exactly imply that Latin culture has arrived in the mainstream.

Perhaps a more interesting sign of the times is the success of groups like Ozomatli from LA and San Francisco's own Los Mocosos. There seems to be a large youth audience for bands mixing Latin music with reggae, funk, hip-hop and of course, rock. Latin rock bands are now receiving the attention of the American rock establishment, and certainly have huge followings in the Latino community. Mana just toured with Santana; Café Tacuba played recently at Slim's, and many more venues feature Latin rock now.

My top five releases for 1999:

1. *Shri Durga* by DJ Cheb i Sabbah, long known for his Tuesday night gigs at Nickie's on the lower Haight, he mixes dance beats with traditional Indian elements for a unique yet accessible sound.

2. *Sya* by Issa Babyogo is a mix of the deep traditional sounds of Mali with electronic elements that works well.

3. *Distinto Diferente* by the Afro-Cuban All Stars features great horn arrangements, vocals, guitar, and percus-



sion. Pedro Calvo of Los Van Van sings on several cuts.

4. *Parranda: Africa in Central America* is a collection of superb recordings featuring aging legends and a new generation songsmiths from the Garifuna peoples of the Caribbean coast of Central America and their acoustic African-derived music.

5. *Briyumba Palo Congo* by Chucho Valdes, the legendary Cuban pianist, and leader of the group Irakere gives us a fast paced incendiary jazz recording largely with just him on acoustic piano and a rhythm section.

Reissue Record of the Year:

Los Heroes by Estrellas de Areito - the greatest Cuban jam session ever recorded.

The Elbo Room, 647 Valencia Street, will be reopening the upstairs room this month after being repaired for fire damage. Meanwhile, shows have been continuing during the week downstairs. Round World Productions presents live music on Thursdays with DJ Baaba-Loup. All shows start at 10 pm. December 2: Charanson. December 9 & 23: Salsa with Mazacote. December 18: Cuban Salsa with a special performance by Jesus Diaz & QBA.



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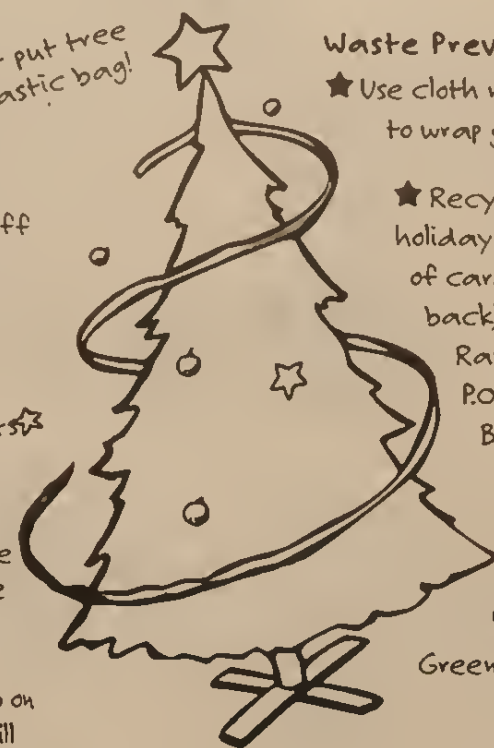
*Trees on curb on
other days will
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